

ON AND OFF STAGE WITH THE PLAYERS

MARY BOLAND
CRADLE SNATCHERS
MUSIC BOX

MAXINE WELLS
"SUNNY"
NEW AMSTERDAM

JOHN BARRYMORE
"DON JUAN"
WARNER

DOROTHY DILLE
"KITTY'S KISSES"
PLAYHOUSE

FREDERICK BURTON
MARGUERITE MOSIER
"MY COUNTRY"
CHANIN'S 46TH

HARRIET BURKE
"AMERICANA"
BELMONT

PEGGY MOSLEY
GEORGE WHITE'S
"SCANDALS"
APOLLO

ADELAIDE RONNELLE
"HONEST LIARS"
HARRIS

KATHLEEN COMEGYS
"LOOSE ANKLES"
BLTMORE

BETTY DE PASCU
"PASSIONS OF 1926"
SHUBERT

OPENING NIGHTS

Walter Winchell

JUST when Anne Nichols was slicing her newspaper advertising appropriations for her "Abie," a mimeographed version of her record-breaking hit comes to the Chanin Theater, by title, "My Country." The following day the dramatic pages of the local journals devoted almost as much space to her production as they did to the new arrival, and the mention of "Abie" in the reviews served to remind the few who had not yet witnessed her play to have a peek at it.

THE QUILL, the official organ of the Theatrical Representatives of America, via Dixie Hines, its editor, asks the dramatic reporters if they do or do not prefer deferred reviews on the new attractions, and why. Some managers, reports Mr. Hines, favor deferring the notices a day or two after the openings, to give the reporter more time for deliberation.

THE new opus, which is from the pen of William J. Perlman, is designed mainly for the upper-floor ticket buyers and scolds the 100 percenters who snub the banana peddler on the corner or the pants - presser across the street. Intolerance is wrist - spanked and certain types of Americans are given a piece of the author's mind. At the premiere, a handful of top-floor customers seemed to resent the poke and interrupted the remarks of the for-

eign characters with illegitimate applause.

MONDAY night Hassard Short will make his debut as individual producer when he presents "No Trespassing," a comedy by John Hunter Booth, at Werba's Brooklyn Theater, prior to its New York engagement. Mr. Short has given the play a fine cast, which includes Kay Johnson, Juliette Day, Russell Hicks, Nicholas Joy and Ellen Southbrook. The settings were designed by Clark Robinson.

"The Scoundrel," Hassard Short's other play starring Emily Stevens, completed its preliminary engagement in Baltimore last night and will be laid away until the early fall, when it will be seen at a Broadway theater.

ON Monday evening, at the Bltmore Theater, Brock Pemberton will present a new comedy by Sam Janney, entitled "Loose Ankles." The cast will include Kathleen Comegys, Harold Vermilyea, Osgood Perkins, Charles D. Brown, Frank Lyon, George W. Barbier, Carlotta Irwin, Ethel Martin, Lavinia Shannon, Moon Carroll, Leonore Sorsby, Fred House, Kenneth Lawton and Barbara Gray.

The production has been staged by Mr. Pemberton and has had preliminary performances in Rockville Centre, Great Neck and Mamaroneck. The New York premiere will mark the sixth anniversary of the production of "Enter Madame,"

MILDRED LUNNAY
"ZIEGFELD'S REVUE OF 1926"
GLOBE

the Gilda Varesi play with which Mr. Pemberton made his debut as a producer.

THE same evening B. F. Witbeck will present at the Cort Theater Myron Fagan's newest comedy, "The Little Spitfire," with the following cast: Sylvia Field, Russell Mack, A. H. Van Buren, Eileen Wilson, Theresa Maxwell Conover, Dudley Hawley, Peggy Allenby, Raymond Van Sickle, Andrew Lawlor, Jr., Walter Glass and Frank Thomas.

REPORTS from the Longacre belt yesterday indicated larger attendances at "Abie" and Miss Nichols is richer and the advertising agencies as well as the newspapers are poorer. Not one of the play reporters failed to compare "My Country" to the comedy at the Republic. Some of the drama chroniclers asserted that the new melting pot affair was a shade the better, and one or two others didn't think so. But nearly all of them predicted huge box office returns from the newcomer. It is this bureau's opinion that the boys and girls who so predicted merely did so to escape being finger-pointed at a season or two hence.

SUCH is fame. It was only recently that Sam H. Harris announced he would present Jeanne Eagels in a new play this season—namely, "The Garden of Eden." Yet the Harris office has already received several letters making reservations for opening night tickets. According to indications, it will be a "genuine" opening night. Sam Harris had better get that red carpet ready.

Cameraland Close-Ups

By REGINA CANNON

LOTHAR MENDES, Robert Kane's share of directorial talent from the Ufa studios, has finished shooting "The Duke Among the Ladies." As Mr. Mendes's crime was committed with a camera and not a Colt, no casualties have resulted as yet. But what the metaphoric gun has missed the knife may accomplish, for the young German director cuts and edits his own productions. So there is still time for Ben Lyon, Lois Moran and Lya de Putti to be celluloidly maimed and left to perish on the cuttingroom floor in the name of art.

Mr. Mendes is a wise boy. Since he has just passed his twenty-eighth year we may call him such without indebting him to us for the rest of his natural. While he has only made five films in his native land, he has learned much from observation, his actual experience and other people's. To be able to accomplish the last named is truly a talent, for if any one may not learn from it what to do, he may indeed observe what not to do. Mr. Mendes has.

The director has seen emphasized, in this country, the wasted effort of players, author and director in having a cutter and titler come in and finish a picture after the final scene has been shot. "Finish" is used advisedly, for the strangers to "what has gone before they were called in" do that in every sense of the word. So Mr. Mendes, who has lived with the story for many weeks, and knows what it's all about, will put his okeh on his pictures before you see it at your favorite theater.

The German director takes all the hulla-balloo about camera angles very lightly. This new "touch" has been imported from his country, and over there directors use it only to stress a strong point, as one would underscore an important sentence in a letter. When an entire film is shot from crazy angles and a director spends his waking

hours figuring what he'll have to pay his photographer to swing by the heels from a chandelier to "get" two men with taking ways relieving a lady of her jewels—well, fun's fun, and that's not art.

WE predict that when "The Duke Among the Ladies" is introduced to a waiting world, American film fans will put Lothar Mendes way up there on the pedestal with Lubitsch Murnau, his already-famous-over-there countrymen.

WE have often been asked whom we consider the prettiest girl in pictures, but never has an enthusiastic fan inquired the name of the wittiest, so we are going to advance the information "free of charge, with no obligation whatsoever on your part," as alluring ads often read.

Aileen Pringle is the lady. We have complained to Aileen about our sinning cinema friends whose favorite motto is apparently "out of sight, out of mind." When they're in New York they do "phone once in a while, but they leave town without saying good-by and invariably send a telegram of explanation and good wishes en route to Hollywood.

Miss Pringle left for the Coast last week and we went to the station to see her off. A few days later a wire arrived from the star which read:—

"Lest you forget the invariable etiquette of the cinema dames and find me lacking in the finer things of life, I hasten to send you an explanatory wire complaining bitterly about the busy life of the bee and the star. Hoped to see you before I left, but what with hair dressers, conferences and movie magnates, I just hadn't time to tell my friends good-by, but I know you will understand and forgive a very busy little girl. Lots of love and soon will send you outdoor pictures you might be able to use in the Macfadden Publications."